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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

18 BACSFOR

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (20 Sep 67) FOR OT-RD-670363

2 October 1967

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ Lessons Learned, Headquarters,
43d Signal Battalion (Support) [U]

TO: ~~Operational~~ reft. for quarterly period ending 30 Apr 67.
SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT)
APO US Forces 96318

SCCVNG-SBA

15 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65

TO: Commanding Officer
21st Signal Group
APO 96240

TO: Commander-In-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

TO: Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AUGHDC-DH
APO 96307

TO: Commanding General
1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM)
ATTN: SCCVOP
APO 96307

TO: Commanding Officer
USASTRATCOM-PAC
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
APO 96557

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years.
DOD DIR 5200.10

ACSFOR-AD File
670363

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REFERENCES:**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

- a. AR 1-19
b. AR 220-15
c. AR 360-5
d. USARV Reg 1-19
e. 1st Sig Bde Reg 1-19
f. 21st Sig Gp Reg 1-19

SECTION 1**Significant Organization or Unit Activities**

1. **GENERAL:** a. During the reporting period the 43d Signal Battalion submitted modified table of organization and equipment (TO&E) for the following units:

- (1) Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (Assigned 43d Sig Bn)
- (2) Company A 43d Signal Battalion (Assigned 43d Signal Battalion)
- (3) Company B 43d Signal Battalion (Assigned 41st Signal Battalion)
- (4) Company C 43d Signal Battalion (Assigned 43d Signal Battalion)
- (5) Company D 43d Signal Battalion (Assigned 73d Signal Battalion)
- (6) Company E 43d Signal Battalion (Assigned 73d Signal Battalion)
- (7) Company C 459th Signal Battalion (Assigned 43d Signal Battalion)

These MTOE's were in accordance with instructions received from Department of the Army to establish space ceiling within the Battalion.

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WARRANT OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
46	14	1,180	1,240

There was no change to normal and established mission assignments, organization, or personnel requisitioning procedures to be effected at this time.

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b. The Battalion assets as of 30 April 1967 consisted of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Company A 43d Signal Battalion, Company C 43d Signal Battalion assigned and 3d Platoon Company D 36th Signal Battalion and 1st Platoon 278th Signal Company attached.

c. Company C 459th Signal Battalion which had the responsibility for the 4th Infantry Division Base Camp communication system was reassigned with Headquarters 509th Signal Battalion in support of Operation OREGON. A composite detachment from within the 43d Signal Battalion was utilized to operate the VHF, comm center, and switchboard facilities at the 4th Infantry Division Base Camp until the arrival of the 1st Platoon of the 278th Signal Company, who now have this mission.

2. ACTIVITIES: a. During the month of March the 43d Signal Battalion began construction of cantonment areas in Pleiku and Kontum. This is a self help project requiring approximately 30 to 40 personnel a day in each location. The Pleiku cantonment area has two, two story billets completed, the Battalion Headquarters building under construction, and pads laid for a latrine and one more billet. The Kontum project has the mess hall completed, one two story billet, and latrine facilities completed. The concrete pads for the remaining buildings have been poured. The partial completion of these projects have alleviated the present crowded conditions.

b. Steps have been initiated for land procurement in the Ban Me Thout area for use as a signal cantonment area. This was predicated by the limited billet and messing facilities which exist in the present area. Once the new area has been procured the Ban Me Thout signal detachment can be expanded to meet the increasing signal requirements.

c. In conjunction with the II Corp ARVN Signal Battalion the 43d Signal Battalion is helping construct an ARVN elementary school for use of the II Corps Signal Battalion Dependents.

3. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION: a. During the past quarter the Battalion has gained 225 personnel and lost 199 personnel. Of the total losses 146 personnel were of C 459th which was reassigned for Operation OREGON. This places a burden on the Battalion to continue the communication requirement in the 4th Division Base Camp. Even with the arrival of the 1st Platoon of the 278th Signal Company with 79 personnel has not removed the requirement of augmenting the 278th with officers and switchboard personnel to accomplish the mission.

b. Critical MOS shortage which effect the Battalion in the performance of its operational mission as well as its administrative mission are as follows:

	<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>% SHORT</u>
(1)	711A	1	0	100
(2)	71H	1	0	100
(3)	053	32	10	70

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	<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>% SHORT</u>
(4)	31K	10	1	90
(5)	31L	21	11	50
(6)	31N	12	3	75
(7)	31Z	12	8	33
(8)	36B	10	7	30
(9)	72B	72	46	35

c. The Battalion has the following units under its control:

(1) Assigned

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 43d Signal Battalion

Company A 43d Signal Battalion

Company C 43d Signal Battalion

(2) Attached for rations and quarters:

Detachment 10, 362d Signal Company

One team 69th Signal Battalion

(3) Attached for operational control:

3d Platoon Company D 36th Signal Battalion

1st Platoon 276th Signal Company

4. SECURITY: a. With the construction of the new cantonment area a revision of the base camp defenses was required. Perimeter fences are under construction as well as overhead personnel bunkers.

b. Passive defensive measures are being taken at all communication sites within the Battalions area of responsibility.

5. TRAINING: a. The 43d Signal Battalion was tasked to develop and conduct a radio relay and carrier attendant school for the 1st Signal Brigade. The school graduated its first class on 16 April 1967. To further refine the quality of instruction the Program of Instruction was revised. The second class of 30 students started on 30 April 1967.

b. In order to meet the ever increasing demand for switchboard operators the 43d Signal Battalion has prepared a program of instruction and lesson plans to cross train personnel in the MOS 72C.

c. At the beginning of the quarter the 43d Signal Battalion conducted training on the AN/URC-50 radio. All 31M's (Radio relay and carrier attendants) assigned to the Battalion received training on this equipment.

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d. Currently under going On-the-job training in circuit control specialist are six personnel from Company A 43d Signal Battalion. These people are receiving their training with Long Lines Battalion North, Pleiku. Two personnel are also attending the 1st Signal Brigade AN/SSG-73 school in Saigon.

6. OPERATIONS. a. During the month of February the 43d Signal Battalion replaced six AN/TRC-24 systems with AN/GRC-50 systems, thus improving communications in the local area by reducing the interference in the lower frequency bands. These systems are all between Pleiku and 4th Division Base Camp.

b. The 43d Signal Battalion assumed responsibility for operation of the Pleiku local switchboard during the month of February from the 1878th Communication Squadron (USAF). The service of the local switchboard has improved greatly providing additional personnel to operate the switchboard.

c. During the intermediate construction phase of the 71st Evacuation Hospital the 43d Signal Battalion has provided the Hospital with a SB-6 switchboard, local telephone distribution, and access to the Pleiku long distant board.

d. The outside cable plant for Kontum, 4th Division Base Camp, Ban Ma Thout, and Pleiku have been studied and recommended changes have been made. The 4th Division Base Camp project is currently under way with 5,636 feet of fifty pair and 7,092 feet of hundred pair cable being laid. This is approximately 23% of completion.

e. In conjunction with the expanding cable plant at the 4th Division Base Camp the 43d Signal Battalion has installed a (Six hundred line capacity) AN/MTC-9 switchboard. This is serving as the main switchboard facility for the present time. A decision for another type switchboard is pending.

f. The 43d Signal Battalion assisted the 362d Tropospheric-scatter company in installing a system between hill 1026 and Ban Ma Thout. The 43d Signal Battalion is currently providing two AN/GRC-50 keying systems from Pleiku to hill 1026 for the Tropospheric-scatter system.

7. LOGISTICS: a. Equipment is still critical for the Battalion. Equipments short which effects the Battalion's mission are as follows:

	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>	<u>TOTAL ON HAND</u>
(1) AN/VRC-46	6	0	0
(2) AN/VRC-47	20	0	0
(3) AN/VRC-49	6	5	5
(4) TT-7	41	22	22
(5) TT-76	116	33	33
(6) 15 KW Generator	18	0	0
(7) 30 KW Generator	49	0	0

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(8)	45 KW Generator	12	8	8
(9)	Truck 4 Ton	49	35	35
(10)	Truck 2 1/2 Ton	45	21	21
(11)	5 Ton Wrecker	1	0	0
(12)	GRC-106	13	4	4
(13)	Air conditioner 18'000	25	13	13
(14)	Environmental Control Unit 18'000	21	0	0
(15)	Environmental Control Unit 36'000	46	0	0
(16)	GRC-125	15	0	0
(17)	PHC-25	10	1	1

All requisitions for automotive and armament were cancelled by Headquarters Qui Nhon Depot stock control. These items were re-requisitioned by the Battalion. In order to insure that our requisitions are valid, the document register and all requisitions were reconciled with 573d stock control Camp Holloway, Pleiku. Any requisitions that were not found valid and the item was still required was requisitioned again.

b. Continuing command emphasis is being placed on the requisitioning and accounting of equipment. Letters giving the history of the requisitions and data concerning the follow-ups are sent to the Pleiku sub area command, requesting assistance in locating and issuing of critically short equipment. Air conditioners are the only item we have recieved information back on at this date.

c. Repair parts for electronic, automotive and generators are also an area of concern to the unit during the last quarter. Of a total of 135 red ball (Deadline) requisitions placed only 51 were filled for a total filled of 37.7 per cent. Constant liasion is made with the support units and these parts which reach the support units are issued. However, as can be seen by the number of parts ordered versus the parts received the red ball parts are not reaching the unit.

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PART 2: Recommendations (Lessons Learned)

9 AVIATION: Recommend that the 43d Signal Battalion be assigned the aviation section authorized under the current TOE 11-500D. The Battalion has area communication responsibility for Kontum, Pleiku, Phu Don, and Dar Loc provinces in the Republic of Vietnam. Communication elements of the Battalion are located in each of these provinces. In order to provide necessary command and logistic support, an immediately responsive aviation section is required. Currently the aviation support for the Battalion comes from 41st Signal Battalion or 21st Signal Group. These elements are located over 100 miles from Pleiku. The time lag in requesting aircraft and the aircraft arriving in Pleiku to fly the mission is not considered responsive enough for the needs of the Battalion.



HERMAN ERTLSCHEWIGER
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SECTION 2

Commander's Observation and Recommendations

PART 1: Observations (Lesson Learned)

a. OPERATIONS:

PASSIVE ANTENNAS

ITEM: Passive antenna for AN/TRC-24 system

DISCUSSION: During the month of March a test was conducted on a AN/TRC-24 system between Pleiku and Hong Kong mountain, An Ke at Mang Yung pass using two each AD/235/G antennas connected with 80 foot coax cable. (The equipment was thoroughly checked and found operational). The purpose of the test was to attempt unattended relay operation at unsecure, remote and isolated areas.

OBSERVATION: There was no significant change in signal levels on the system and it was noticed that more distortion was present on the systems with the passive antennas present.

Installation of Buried Cable

ITEM: Burying cable in central highlands of Vietnam during the monsoon season.

DISCUSSION: Due to the nature of the soil found in the central highland of Vietnam water tends to stand in open trenches and fill the trenches or conduits with silt as the water drains off. This causes additional work on the cable teams as they must clear the trenches and road conduits of silt before laying the cable in the trenches or through the conduit.

OBSERVATION: Proper precautions should be taken to allow for drainage of water and prevention of silt to fill the under road crossing cable conduits while waiting for the installation of cable. Cable teams should work as close to the trenching machine as possible in laying cable thus will preclude the open trenches from filling with water and silt before the cable is laid.

b. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION:

Instruction Aids

ITEM: Training aid for technical subjects.

DISCUSSION: In preparation for conducting classes in technical signal subjects the lack of films, film strips, overhead projector and other non locally reproducible training aid reduces the effectiveness of the instruction.

OBSERVATION: Consideration should be given to establishing a training aids center at the sub area commands to assist the units in obtaining proper material.

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c. LOGISTICS:

Maintenance of Radio Set AN/GR-26

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ITEM: Maintenance of the radio set AN/GR-26 MD/239 AN/GR modulator

DISCUSSION: After repairs of the MD/239 AN/GR modulator in the maintenance shop and alignment of the modulator is completed on the bench using proper test equipment, it has been found that in order to insure proper alignment of the modulator the modulator MD/239 AN/GR should be inter-connected with the transmitter T-368 and final alignment adjustment made. This method of final alignment has assisted in showing the alignment reliability problem in repaired MD/239 AN/GR modulators.

OBSERVATION: Final alignment of the MD/239 AN/GR modulator should be made in conjunction with a T-368 transmitter to insure alignment reliability of the MD/239 AN/GR modulator.

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SCCVNG-SY (15 May 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April
1967 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96240 28 May 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRAFCOM) APO 96307

THRU: Deputy Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVG-DH, APO 96307

THRU: Commander in Chief, USARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-NH, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D. C. 20312

1. Transmitted herewith is a copy of Headquarters 43rd Signal Battalion Report, subject as above.
2. Concur with observations made by CO, 43rd Signal Battalion.
3. A total of 50 students were enrolled in the AN/TRC-24 classes I and II which commenced 3 and 30 April 1967. The student input of 30 per class, effective with Class II is considered to be in excess of our facilities and instructional capabilities. At the present time the school is being conducted in the new communications center building that is scheduled to be occupied in the first quarter fiscal 68. If the school is forced to move there is no available building in the area large enough to accommodate a class of this capacity. Recommend that allocations to the classes be restricted to 20, with twelve spaces reserved for units of the 21st Signal Group, and eight spaces for other 1st Signal Brigade units.
4. The training program conducted by the unit on switchboard, AN/GRC-50 and circuit control procedures is indicative of the unit emphasis on mission essential training. Emphasis is being placed on generator maintenance in an effort to reduce power failures. A recent study conducted by ACOC, revealed that a majority of circuit outages was due to power failures at our sites.
5. The present procedure of requesting training aids from the Training Aide Center, Fort Buckner, Okinawa, is inadequate. Requests must be made a minimum of four weeks prior to desired date in order to allow for shipping time, etc. The establishment of a training aid facility within the RVN area would eliminate valuable requisition time and allow for more units to utilize the aids.

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SCCVNG-SY

28 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967, (RCS-CSFOR-65)

6. The 43rd Signal Battalion has sufficient area and wide spread responsibilities to warrant activation of its aviation section. Support provided by the 41st Signal Battalion is no longer considered adequate since the growth of the unit has placed greater requirements for air support. Recommend that personnel and equipment as requested in MTOE submitted February 1967, be made available to this unit.

7. The excessive processing time of requisitions at support units and depots continues to be a problem. Time should be reduced once supporting units automate their systems. Continued emphasis is being placed on requisitioning units to initiate timely follow-up action and to make personal contact with personnel at supporting units to effect validation of outstanding requisitions.


CHARLES H. BURR, JR.
COL, SigC
Commanding

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SCCVOP (15 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO SF 96307 8 JUN 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96307
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

1. IAW AR 1-19, subject report from the 43rd Signal Battalion is forwarded.

2. Reference paragraph 3, 1st Indorsement. Course input levels for the Brigade School system are determined by theater requirements. In event the school is required to move from the present classroom facility, temporary reduction in class input levels will be authorized until other facilities can be located or the course is transferred to the new school facility being constructed at Long Binh.

3. Concur in the Commander's Observations and 1st Indorsement, 21st Signal Group with the following comment. Reference Item, Instruction Aids, page 6 and paragraph 5, 1st Indorsement. It is impractical to establish film and training aids centers at sub area commands. The cost of maintaining such facilities is prohibitive. Film libraries are operated by the 69th Signal Battalion at Camp Gaylor, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, the 586th Signal Company at An Khe, and Company C, 41st Signal Battalion at Cam Ranh Bay. These facilities can provide or procure films and film strips listed in DA Pamphlet 108-1 upon request. Training aids support is provided by the Training Aids Center, Fort Buckner, Okinawa. Requests for training aids must be submitted IAW Appendix VI to USARV Regulation 350-1.

4. Concur in the Commander's Recommendation, page 7, and paragraph 6, 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMA DEB:


THOMAS D. BLEDSOE Jr.

Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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AVHCC-DST (15 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOF-OT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 43d Signal Battalion (Support) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning critical MOS shortages, paragraph 3, page 3: The 1st Signal Brigade receives replacements through USASTRATCOM and both headquarters are aware of the situation. In addition the 1st Signal Brigade operates a signal school to assist in overcoming critical MOS shortages. The MOS shortages noted are DA wide.

b. Reference item concerning critical equipment shortages, paragraph 7, pages 5 and 6: Concur. Shortages of teletypewriter equipment still exists throughout the USARV Command. The TT-76 and TT-4 have, however, been included in the Closed Loop Program. All assets available in CONUS and within the theater are being applied to this program to improve the quantitative and qualitative position in USARV as soon as possible. The AN/GRC-106, a new item of radio equipment will ultimately replace all old HF AM radio equipment in country. CONUS is filling requisitions for authorized quantities as fast as production permits. This headquarters is preparing a modernization program for the replacement of old HF AM radio equipment in RVN with the new single sideband family. When completed, this program will be forwarded to USAKFAC and DA for validation. The supply of new series FM tactical voice radios is improving. Unit is being queried on the specifics of problem reported in the ORLL: TCE shortage or need for assets to replace old series radios. TOE shortages will be filled from depot stocks as fast as assets become available. Requirements for assets to convert the remaining USARV units have been reported to USAECOM. Lift data has been requested. Generators of certain sizes and capacities are still in short supply. The PU-402 M (15 KW generator, trailer mounted) is in this category. The USAFAC Closed Loop Conference (15-20 May 1967) advised that shipments of the PU-402 M generators from CONUS were programmed to commence in December 1967. The S4, 43d Signal Battalion will provide requisition data to USARV which will be used to validate requisitions with the 14th ICC to insure continuing supply action. Requisitions will be filled as assets become available to USARV. Shortages of 4 ton and 2 1/2 ton trucks and 5 ton wreckers

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AVHGC-DST (15 May 67)

3d Ind

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

still exist in this command, however, 12 each 2½ ton trucks were issued to unit subsequent to this report. Wheeled vehicles are arriving in-country in moderate quantities and it is estimated that all known shortages of ½ ton vehicles will be filled prior to August 1967. Shortages of 5 ton wreckers will be filled on an established priority basis as assets become available.

c. Reference item concerning instruction aids, paragraph b, page 1: Concur with comment contained in paragraph 3, 2d Indorsement, with reference to establishing procedures for obtaining training aids. This headquarters is currently surveying the need for a training aids center in RVN. A request is being forwarded to USARPAC requesting assistance on this survey.

d. Reference item concerning activation of aviation section, paragraph 6, 1st Indorsement: The DA-established moratorium on submission of MTOE remains in effect; consequently, MTOE action other than review at this headquarters cannot be taken unless personnel trade-offs are offered and identified. In the case of aviators, the 90% manning level established by DA for RVN precludes trade-offs from being made due to the shortage of aviators to meet higher priority requirements. Additionally, aircraft availability does not permit a fill of combat service support units without deferring aviation units approved for deployment or depriving combat units of aviation support. DA directed that combat support and combat service support units deploy with aviation sections at zero strength in order to fill other higher priority requirements. Support must continue to be provided from current assets with discriminate utilization on a priority basis until such time that DA eases the current restriction.

e. Reference item concerning excessive processing time at support units and depots, paragraph 7, 1st Indorsement: There is insufficient information provided concerning processing time, however, requisitions are being processed in accordance with priorities established as expeditiously as possible.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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GPOF-DT(15 May 67)

4th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
from HQ 43d Sig Bn (Spt) (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

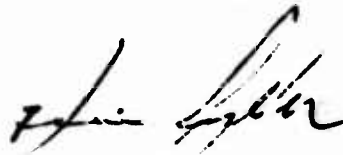
HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

15 SEP 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs in the
report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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